

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 /024 W

-----086628 240407Z /13

R 231515Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1573

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2312

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GB, US

SUBJECT: GABONESE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON

1. MOFA SECGEN MEBALEY, WHO ACTING FONMIN, CALLED ME IN MORNING AUG 23 TO TELL ME THAT GOG HAD DECIDED CHANGE AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON, AND SAID HE WANTED EXPLAIN WHY, INASMUCH AS INCUMBENT HAS ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE A FEW MONTHS.

2. GABON HAS BEEN RE-EXAMINED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH USG AND HAS CONCLUDED THAT, GIVEN THEIR IMPORTANCE TO GOG, THEY HAVE DECIDED THEY WANT A STRONGER, MORE AGGRESSIVE, MORE EXPERIENCED AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, WHO WILL TAKE INITIATIVE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH STATE DEPARTMENT MORE FREQUENTLY, AND WHO WILL GET AND MAKE CONTACTS WITH BUSINESSMEN, CONGRESS AND WHITE HOUSE. WE SHOULD DRAW NO OTHER CONCLUSIONS FROM THEIR DECISION.

3. MOFA IS THEREFORE PREPARING NOTE NOW AND WILL ASK ME TO TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT AS SOON AS I HAVE RECEIVED IT. MEBALEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE GRANTED QUICKLY, SINCE GOG WANTED MAKE CHANGE ASAP. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE WILL BE JOSE AMIAR, WHO CURRENTLY GABONESE AMBASSADOR IN YAOUNDE AND MAN OF CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE.

4. COMMENT: THIS ONE CAME OUT OF BLUE -- WE HAVE HAD NO PRIOR
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INKLING. MEBALEY WAS VERY CAREFUL NEVER TO MENTION AMB. MAMBOUKA'S NAME, AND IF HE WAS CRITICIZING HIM, IT WAS ONLY BY INDIRECTION. ENTIRE THRUST OF HIS PITCH WAS GABON'S PERCEIVED NEED UPGRADE STRENGTH OF THEIR EMBASSY. THERE MAY BE MORE THAN MEETS EYE HERE, BUT IF SO, IT IS NOT YET APPARENT TO ME. ONE WORD OF CAUTION -- MEBALEY GAVE NO INDICATION THAT MAMBOUKA IS AWARE OF WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN (ALTHOUGH AMIAR APPARENTLY IS). HIS DESIRE TO REQUEST

AGREEMENT THROUGH OUR CHANNEL IN FACT SUGGESTS MAMBOUKA MAY NOT
BE INFORMED.TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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